

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05

A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01 OMB-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CU-04 /080 W

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P R 091257Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5428

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1008

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: RIOTING INTENSIFIES IN CAPE TOWN AREA

REF: CAPE TOWN 1003

SUMMARY- DISTURBANCES SLACKENED IN CENTRAL CAPE TOWN YESTERDAY
(SEPTEMBER 8) BUT INCIDENTS OF STONING AND ARSON WERE WIDESPREAD
IN AREAS AROUND CAPE TOWN. END SUMMARY

1. CENTRAL CAPE TOWN WAS COMPARATIVELY CALM SEPTEMBER 8 WITH
ONLY OCCASIONAL BATON CHARGES AND FIRING OF SOME TEAR GAS
TO DISPERSE SMALL NUMBERS OF DEMONSTRATORS ON GRAND PARADE.
STONING AND ARSON ATTEMPTS WERE WIDESPREAD IN OTHER AREAS,
HOWEVER. AN ACKERMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE IN SALT RIVER AREA
OF CAPE TOWN WAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY FIRE EARLY
THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER
9), AND CLASSROOMS WERE DESTROYED AT A COLORED SCHOOL IN
STEENBERG IN SUBURB OF RETREAT. MAIN ROADS IN RETREAT WERE
CLOSED BY RIOTERS WHO STONED VEHICLES MOVING THROUGH
AREA AND "CONSIDERABLE" LOOTING AND BURNING OF SHOPS WAS REPORTED.
POLICE USED RIFLES IN ADDITION TO SHOT GUNS AND TEAR GAS.
WHILE SPECIFIC NUMBER OF DEATHS AND INJURIES NOT AVAILABLE,
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POLICE REPORTEDLY CONCEDED IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT "SOME" HAD DIED

DURING THE SHOOTING.

2. RIOTING CONTINUED IN RAVENSMEAD-TIERVLEI AND PAROW INDUSTRIAL AREAS. IN PAROW FACTORIES CLOSED EARLY YESTERDAY AND SOME LIKELY YO REMAIN CLOSED TODAY. AT SOME FACTORIES STONES WERE REPORTEDLY THROWN AT WHITE WORKERS INSIDE FACTORY GROUNDS AND SOME CARS WERE DAMAGED. SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN PRODUCTIVITY REPORTED BY SOME FACTORY MANAGERS. IN RAVENSMEAD, ONE BUILDING WAS REPORTED TOTALLY DESTROYED AS FIRE TRUCKS WERE PREVENTED FROM REACHING AREA AND FOR FIRST TIME TRAFFIC POLICE WERE STONED BY CROWDS. AT (COLORED) UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, WINDOWS OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WERE KNOCKED OUT BY STONE-THROWING STUDENTS. AT FISH HOEK PETROL BOMBS WERE REPORTED THROWN FROM MOVING VEHICLES AT HOUSES ALONG OCEAN VIEW DRIVE- A "WHITE" RESIDENTIALR AREA. HOME OF A POLICE RESERVIST IN FISH HOEK REPORTEDLY SET ON FIRE BY PETROL BOMB. CARS WERE STONED ON EASTERN BOULEVARD, MAIN HIGHWAY FROM CAPE TOWN TO SOUTHERN SUBURBS AND AT CLOSE OF PERFORMANCE AT NICO MALAN OPERA HOUSE LAST NIGHT, PATRONS WERE CAUTIONED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF STONINGS ON EASTERN BOULEVARD AND OTHER EXITS FROM CITY. INCIDENTS OF STONING OCCURRED IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF NYANGA AND GUGULETU BUT WERE DESCRIBED BY POLICE AS "MINOR"

3. OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN POLICE USED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE CROWDS FROM "BLACK" AND "COLORED" TOWNSHIPS IN STELLENBOSCH WHILE FOR SECOND NIGHT RUNNING (WHITE) UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH STUDENTS CARRYING STICKS STOOD GUARD ON CAMPUS. OTHER STONING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN STELLENBOSCH AREA.

4. SEPTEMBER 9 CAPE TIMES CARRIED ITEM STATING THAT A FOUR-MAN CREW FILMING FOR AMERICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION WERE DETAINED BY POLICE YESTERDAY IN TIERVLEI. CONGEN OFFICER WAS TOLD BY POLICE THAT THE FOUR WERE NOT RPT NOT U.S. CITIZENS. THEY REPORTEDLY WORK FOR (U.K.?) SUNDAY TRIBUNE AND ALSO DOING SOME WORK FOR ABC. POLICE OFFICIAL SAID THEY WERE NOT "DETAINED" BUT CAME "VOLUNTARILY" TO POLICE STATION FOR DISCUSSIONS WHEN REQUESTED TO DO SO. HE REFUSED TO SAY WHY THEY WERE SO "REQUESTED" OR WHAT WAS DISCUSSED WITH THEM.

WHITE

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NNN

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